



Official Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 22, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.
NDMA Conference Room

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The Official Board Meeting of New Discoveries Montessori Academy of Hutchinson, MN
was held at New Discoveries Montessori Academy, Hutchinson, MN.

1. Call Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order 5:30 p.m.

Voting members present: Shari Colvin, Tim Dezelske, Patti Hoerner, Jill Montes, Spencer Kangas. Absent: Tiffany Knox, Christine La Plante.

Non-voting member present: Kirsten Kinzler, Director.

2. Guests: Stephen Dess, Former Director of MACS, Tammy Maiers, NDMA Speech teacher.
3. Public Comment: (Exhibit J): none at this time.
4. Spotlight Report: Middle School highlights were read by Kirsten Kinzler. Notes were sent in from the teachers, (Exhibits D & T*)
5. Agenda: MS (Dezelske/Montes) to approve the agenda, all aye; motion carries unanimously.
6. Consent Agenda: MS (Dezelske/Montes) to approve the consent agenda, all aye; motion carries unanimously.
 - a. Minutes of May 18, 2026 Meeting
 - b. Minutes of June 1, 2026 Special Meeting (change Agenda to Minutes)
 - c. Submitted Committee Reports
 - i. Facilities Committee met on May 22, 2026
 - ii. Financial Committee met on June 15, 2026 (change on the minutes June not May, noted: the short-term loan from Citizens Bank was paid off right away)
 - iii. Administrative Review Committee met on June 15, 2026
7. Financial Reports
 - a. Received May 2026 Financial Report
 - b. MS (Dezelske/Colvin) to approve May 2026 Supplemental Information Report, nothing stands out, motion carries unanimously by roll call. (Exhibit K)
8. Reports
 - a. Executive Director: see attached report (Exhibit J & T)
 - i. Personnel changes – none at this time.
 - ii. Strategic Plan Update – Kinzler went through the strategic plan goals one by one, sharing the ones met and how, and also the ones still being worked on. (Exhibit J)

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- iii. Environmental Education Update – Work is being completed on reporting the data results on our Environmental Learning Plan. The board went through the document with Kinzler as she shared some of the goals. (Exhibit G&H)
- iv. Enrollment Update – looking good at this time K-8 195, PK-8 223. Enrollment posters are being hung around the community.
- v. Activities and Happenings related to the school, staff, students, families, community: Summer Discoveries is happening this week. 4 years – grade 8. Safety Town and Ocean’s Science are the themes.
- b. Board Activities – Guest speaker, **Steve Dess**, a longtime leader in Minnesota’s charter school movement, provided an overview of charter school history, financing, and authorizer relationships. Key points from his presentation included:

- The Minnesota Charter School Law served as the foundation for the charter school movement.
- Charter schools were created through the innovation and determination of parents, educators, and community leaders who worked together to establish schools and secure sponsorship.
- The first charter schools were approved under a system in which local school districts were asked to serve as sponsors. If a district declined, schools could seek approval through the state.
- Approximately 35 charter schools were approved during the early years of the movement.
- Over time, nonprofit organizations were granted authority to authorize charter schools, expanding opportunities for school development.
- About 12 years ago, legislative changes shifted the authorizer approval process, resulting in the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) approving authorizers directly.
- Mr. Dess also shared historical context regarding charter school financing challenges, particularly those related to lease aid and facility funding.

Discussion was had regarding the influence of large organizations and systems that can impact charter school operations and decision-making. Mr. Dess encouraged the board to approach current challenges with confidence and determination. He emphasized the importance of the board working collaboratively over the coming months to address ongoing issues, evaluate options, and develop a clear path forward for the school.

- c. Finance, charter history, and governance training. (Exhibit J&K)

9. Unfinished Business: none at this time.

10. New Business

- a. Reviewed and Accepted Osprey Wilds Board Observation 5/18/26
- b. Closed the meeting at 6:30 p.m. as permitted by MN Statute 13D.05 Subd. 3(a) for consideration of Personnel Issues related to annual Board Appointed Administrator evaluation
- c. Reopened meeting at 6:47 p.m.
- d. Board Statement regarding administrator Evaluation
 - i. MS (Dezelske/Hoerner) to accept the new employment agreement with Ms. Kinzler’s compensation remaining the same as previous year, the overall rating was a proficient rating, as presented by the Administrator Review committee to the board, motion carries unanimously by roll call vote.

11. Upcoming Meetings/Events/Announcements

- a. Next board meeting, July 20, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.
- b. Finance Committee Meeting, July 13, 2026 – 11:45 a.m.
- c. Policy/Governance Committee Meeting, tbd
- d. Facilities Committee Meeting, tbd

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e. Administrative Review Committee, tbd

12. Adjournment 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tara Erickson
Board Recorder